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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence

29 April 1975

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam
(As of 1600 EDST)
No. 29

Government Defenses Collapsing

1. Saigon's defenses are collapsing on all fronts, and the Communists are moving on the capital from every side.

2. The Communists are closest on the eastern fringe of the city where advancing North Vietnamese troops have moved as far as the Newport Bridge. The main strike force has moved south of Bien Hoa City and through Thu Duc town on its way to Saigon. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] North Vietnamese infantry and tanks were on the "expressway" entering Saigon.

3. Northwest of Saigon, the North Vietnamese claim to have liberated Tay Ninh City, and strong attacks which began on April 28 against Cu Chi have apparently resulted in the rout of the South Vietnamese 25th Division. Both the North Vietnamese 3rd and 9th Divisions are now moving on Saigon from the west.

4. The North Vietnamese 5th and 8th Divisions are also moving closer to Saigon along the Route 4 corridor southwest of the capital. A number of sharp clashes on the southern perimeter of the city suggests these units are closing rapidly on the capital.

NSA review(s) completed.

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State Department
review(s) completed.

5. On the government side, there appears to be an almost total lack of command leadership. The staff of the Military Region 3 Headquarters is reported to have ceased functioning, and the Joint General Staff is almost as ineffective. With the breakdown of these command functions, no coordinated orders are being issued.

6. The new chief of the JGS, General Vinh Loc, broadcast an order-of-the-day to his forces on Saigon Radio on April 29. His brief comments, however, seemed largely directed to Communist ears saying that the South Vietnamese have always advocated pacifism in order to bring about peace. This suggests he may try to seek some sort of accommodation with the Communists to spare the lives of Saigon's remaining troops.

Communists Refuse Surrender Parley

7. The Communist's Liberation Radio this afternoon broadcast an appeal from the Viet Cong's Saigon Gia Dinh Party Committee to "completely smash the war machine of the puppet administration." Characterizing the new Minh government as a "clique" still "ballyhooing about negotiations," the broadcast indicates that the Communists will accept neither a ceasefire nor a negotiated surrender. Instead, they are telling their troops and cadre through this message and others broadcast during the past few hours, that a complete military victory is within their grasp and to press the attack.

8. This broadcast explains the Communist refusal to see emissaries of President Minh who were dispatched to the Viet Cong's compound at Tan Son Nhut airport to discuss a ceasefire and a resumption of negotiations. In reality, the government probably was trying to arrange a surrender, but the Communists now appear unwilling to deny their troops the satisfaction of marching victoriously into Saigon. "Big" Minh indicated his estimate of his chances of concluding a ceasefire when he requested the American Embassy this morning to evacuate his closest aide.